Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DEAE-00 IO-13 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01 AGR-05 AID-05 /101 W -------081204Z 113458 /44

R 080730Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY KABUL TO AMEMBASSY BONN SECSTATE WASHDC 3039 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 3988

E.O. 11652: GDS: TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, AF SUBJ: OPIUM CULTIVATION IN AFGHANISTAN/AFGHAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: BONN 09394

- 1. WE BELIEVE REMARKS BY DR. HUEBNER OF FRG FOREIGN OFFICE, AS REPORTED REFTEL, TO BE ERRONEOUS AND MISLEADING. AFTER VERIFYING OUR OWN PERCEPTIONS WITH THE FRG EMBASSY HERE, BELIEVE RECORD SHOULD BE SET STRAIGHT.
- 2. NEITHER WE NOR THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN KABUL SEE SIGNS OF "INCRESSING SOVIET INFLUENCE" OVER THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA). IN FACT, THE GOA IS CONTINUEING ITS POLICIES OF ENCOURAGING GREATER WESTERN PRESENCE HERE, THEREBY LESSENING ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS. THESE POLICIES HAVE INCLUDING SPECIFIC APPROACHES TO THE FRT TO INCREASE ITS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ITS COMMERCIAL INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, OF COURSE, THAT IMPLEMENTWWION OF THESE POLICIES MUST BE GRADUAL -- NEITHER THE AFGHANS NOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WOULD PROFIT FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PRECIPITOUS ACTION WHICH WOULD ALARM OR PROVOKE THE SOVIETS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF THE FRG.

3. THE GERMAN EMBASSY, MOREOVER, REPORTS NO DIFFICULTY IN SEEING, OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS, WITH, GOA OFFICIALS. THE RECENT VISIT IN MAY OF AGYLARGE

FRG ECONOMIC DELEGATION ALSO WENT WELL AND RESULTED IN INCREASED FRG COMMITMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL AID, BOTH CAPITAL ASSISTANCE (I.E. SOFT LOANS) AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION (GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS).

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